

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The League of Conservation Voters (LCV), a national bipartisan organization devoted to educating citizens about the environmental voting records of federally elected officials, this week released their annual Congressional Scorecard for the first session of the 108th Congress. The LCV has published a National Environmental Scorecard every Congress since 1970, the year it was founded by leaders of the environmental movement following the first Earth Day.

Congresswoman Linda Sánchez received a score of 95 percent. The national average was 46 percent for House members.

"I am honored to receive this rating from the League of Conservation Voters. Protecting the environment and preserving our country's natural resources are two of my top priorities. Without sound policies and strong environmental protections, our children will inherit polluted skies, contaminated oceans and depleted green spaces," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

The 2003 National Environmental Scorecard rates Members of the House on 19 House votes pertaining to environmental health and safety protection, resource conservation and spending on environmental programs. Votes include the Bush energy bill, drilling in ANWR, offshore oil drilling, protection of our national forests, anti-environmental riders, providing exemptions to the Clean Water Act, and ozone pollution. The 2003 National Environmental Scorecard represents the consensus of experts from 20 respected environmental and conservation organizations who selected the key votes on which Members of Congress should be graded.

"The residents of the 39th District deserve the best environmental protections, particularly when it comes to ozone pollution. Southern California is nationally known for its high levels of air pollution. I believe it is vital to pass legislation and fund programs that will improve California's air quality now and for the future, " concluded Sánchez.